








## Use of thickener compositions for surfactants and surfactant systems

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**Inventor:** RUBACK WULF DR  
**Applicant:** HUELS CHEMISCHE WERKE AG (DE)  
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**Abstract of EP0374414**

In order to achieve optimum applicational properties of aqueous surfactant solutions, thickeners are added to these solutions. The known thickeners must be added to the surfactant systems in high concentrations which may be, for example in the case of electrolyte thickeners, so high that skin irritations may occur. The novel thickener mixtures do not have these disadvantages. Thickeners for surfactants and surfactant systems are proposed which comprise a mixture of a nonionic surfactant having an HLB value of from 4 to 11 with a polymer. The nonionic surfactant used is a compound of the general formula  $R-(BO)_e(CH_2CH_2O)_f-X$  and the polymer used is a compound of the general formula  $x[R<1>-(CH_2CH_2O)_b(BO)_a]-A-[(BO)_c(CH_2CH_2O)_d-R<2>]_y$ . These mixtures do not have the abovementioned disadvantages. A synergistic thickening effect occurs. These thickener mixtures are used in concentrations of only from 0.05 to 10% in surfactants and surfactant systems.

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